to produce a bioactive surface on titanium alloys by chemical surface modification rather than applying a bioceramic layer to the surface by one of the more-established complex routes. Their process involves soaking the alloys in aqueous solutions of sodium or potassium hydroxide and then heat treating them at 600°C. When such a surface is exposed to simulated body fluids, not unlike plasma, it produces a thin, bone-like apatite layer.

This book reports the very latest results from laboratories around the world, and one contemplating getting involved in this field of endeavour should certainly familiarize themselves with its contents.

David Brown

Impacted Teeth (1993)

Dentists daily face many decisions regarding impacted teeth and this book presents detailed information on the aetiology, diagnosis and management of impacted teeth. This textbook was written for patients' dental health advisors and provides a well-illustrated modern surgical text.

The 33 authors are mainly maxillofacial surgeons but four authors are active in the fields of oral pathology, orthodontics and periodontology. All authors but four are from the USA. The 23 chapters cover a broad range of subjects, including anaesthesia and sedation, diagnosis (including radiography) and surgical techniques. Each chapter covers a specific topic, such as impacted teeth, third molars, odontomas, transplantation of teeth, impacted teeth in fractures and clefts. Four chapters deal with surgical side-effects, dry socket, infections, general complications and neurological complications. The book is easy to read.

The illustrations are generally of high quality. The drawings illustrating surgical techniques are good and also understandable to an orthodontist. The references to some of the chapters are not quite up to date with, for example, only one from 1990 among 60 references in two chapters. The latest reference (out of 17) in the chapter on third molars (60 pages) is from 1982. The index is extensive, very detailed and most useful. For example, canine(s) has 34 subheadings and legal issues 16.

This book would be most valuable to oral surgeons and as a reference for dentists managing impacted teeth.

Jüri Kurol

Co-Plot—Graphics Software 3.0 (1995)

The machine used for the review was a Viglen Genie DX33 with 16 MB of RAM, 400 MB hard disk and a Hewlett Packard Deskjet 550C printer. Co-Plot is a DOS program but will run quite nicely in a DOS window under Microsoft Windows. It can be used either with or without a mouse, and with a number of digitizers, but I did not test this.

The installation instructions were very clear and there were no problems in installing it as a stand-alone DOS application and running it in a DOS window. The documentation on installation problems appeared very good, but I did not need to use it as the program was very well behaved.

The program is designed to work with its companion programs CoStat and CoDraw. It does, however, accept data input from other programs. I used Co-Plot with data from dBASE III, Stat Graphics, SPSS for Windows, Paradox, Microsoft Excel. For some, it was possible to import them in their native program format, others by creating d-BASE or ASCII files. The only limitation on data file

import is the maximum of 100 variables and you can import data as text values. Text data, other than variable names, is lost. There is a wide variety of graph types available and with control over size, position and type of titles and labels. Insertion of error bars is very straightforward. Editing of graph components is from a menu system at the side of the screen. The program is very flexible in its ability to handle changes.

An attractive feature is the three types of maps on which data can be plotted. The maps available are very detailed for the US, but the world map files include European countries, major cities, rivers and lakes. If the equivalent map files for Europe were available that correspond to the American state and county boundaries, then the scope for displaying geographically-related data would be tremendous.

This version of the package has a Windows metafile file driver which enables export of the created graphs to Windows programs.

There has been a dramatic improvement in the capabilities of the recent releases of the statistics programs such as Minitab version 10 and SPSS for Windows. Even so, with all of them I have, at times, been frustrated trying to produce publication-quality graphs. Some of their limitations are on formatting and position of labels, legends, titles etc. Co-Plot has the potential to overcome most of these and the multi-layered menu system ensured that the process of learning to use this package was relatively short and easy.

I would recommend anyone who has to produce publication quality graphs and who is dissatisfied with their existing package to investigate whether this would meet their needs.

David Stirrups

Origin—The Ultimate Solution, Version 4.0
Publisher: Microcal Software, Northampton, USA

Origin requires an IBM-compatible 386 33 Mhz computer (or higher), 4 MB of RAM, and at least 4 MB of hard drive. Windows 3.0 or higher (including Windows 95) is essential and a maths processor is strongly recommended.

Origin is basically a program for producing high quality graphs, pie charts, histograms etc. for publication or thesis presentation and consequently will principally be of interest to researchers and University Departments. There are 24 graph types available as well as a three-dimensional option which permits rotation of the figure to the required position in any direction.

The program also includes a data analysis function, which allows statistical procedures to be performed prior to constructing appropriate figures. Most interested parties will probably be currently using programs such as Minitab, Statgraphics, Powerpoint and Harvard Graphics and it is therefore difficult for the lay user to appreciate what Origin has to offer which is not presently available in one or more of the above. Nevertheless, the combination of statistical and graphic capabilities in one package may appeal to those not in possession of Statgraphics.

W. J. S. Kerr